Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12517 251819Z

71
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

OES-06 AID-05 CU-02 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 (ISO) W
---------- 129682
R 251345Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7940
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12517

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: DISTURBANCES OVER FAMILY PLANNING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

REF: NEW DELHI 12516

1. CONGEN CALCUTTA REPORTS DISTURBANCES LAST WEEKEND IN LARGELY MUSLIM SECTIONS OF CENTRAL CALCUTTA STEMMING FROM GOWB'S STERILIZATION PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH DETAILS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, SEVERAL POLICEMEN AND AT LEAST ONE DOCTOR WERE CERTAINLY INJURED BY ANGRY MUSLIM MOBS. THERE ARE VARIOUS STORIES ABOUT HOW THE DISTURBANCES STARTED, BUT FORCE AND COERCION BY DOCTORS AND FAMILY PLANNING WORKERS FIGURE IN THOSE WHICH CONGEN HAS HEARD.

2. THE INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS WERE SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO PROMPT CHIEF MINISTER S.S. RAY TO ISSUE STATEMENT CARRIED IN ALL CALCUTTA PAPERS AUGUST 24 (AND IN DELHI PAPERS AUG 25):
QUOTE: A GROUP OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PEOPLE IS SPREADING ABSOLUTELY FALSE AND MALICIOUS RUMORS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12517 251819Z

PEOPLE IN CALCUTTA ARE BEING FORCED TO UNDERTAKE A

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

STERILIZATION OPERATION. THIS RUMOR IS ABSOLUTELY BASE-
LESS. I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NO COMPULSION OR FORCE
WHATSOEVER IS BEING RESORTED TO IN THE MATTER OF ANY
STERILIZATION OPERATION. NO GOVERNMENT SERVANT NOR ANY
POLICEMEN IS FORCING ANYBODY OR COMPELLING ANYBODY TO
GO IN FOR ANY STERILIZATION OPERATION. CERTAINLY NO
POLICE OFFICER OR CONSTABLE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO
ANYTHING OF THE KIND.... UNQUOTE.

3. CONGEN OBSERVES THAT WHILE IN THEORY WEST BENGAL HAS
OPTED FOR "PERSUASION NOT COMPULSION" IN FAMILY PLANNING
PROGRAM, THE TWO ARE NOT FAR APART IN PRACTICE IN CER-
TAIN SITUATIONS. EACH OF SOME 6000 DOCTORS IN WEST
BENGAL HEALTH SERVICE HAS BEEN GIVEN QUOTA OF STERILIZA-
TION OPERATIONS TO PERFORM BY SEPT 30 OR LOSE INCEN-
TIVES IN FORM OF BONUS OR RAPID ADVANCEMENT. MONETARY
INCENTIVES OFFERED "MIDDLEMEN" AND THOSE BEING STERILIZED
HAVE CREATED SITUATION IN WHICH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
PERSUASION AND COMPULSION WAS NEGLIGIBLE. MUSLIMS ARE
PARTICULARLY FEARFUL AND ISSUE COULD EASILY CAUSE SERIOUS
POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS IN WEST BENGAL. CONGEN SPEC-
ULATES THAT INCIDENTS MAY OBLIGE GOWB TO LOWER TAR-
GET FOR STERILIZATIONS AND RELAX PROGRAM IN OTHER WAYS.
FURTHER INFO ON AFTERMATH OF CALCUTTA INCIDENTS IN
CONTAINED REFTEL.

4. SIMILAR INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN AREAS OF UP
NEAR DELHI. IN KHATAULI, FOR EXAMPLE, A MARKET TOWN
WITH A SUGAR FACTORY IN MUSAFFARNAGAR DISTRICT, ABOUT
80 MILES FROM DELHI,THERE WAS RIOTING ABOUT TEN DAYS
AGO IN WHICH, WE ARE TOLD, AT LEAST ONE PERSON WAS
KILLED IN POLICE FIRING. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT A FEW
DAYS LATER IN AMOROHA, ABOUT 80 MILES FROM DELHI TO
THE EAST, LOCAL RESIDENTS REPORTEDLY BURNED DOWN A
FAMILY PLANNING CENTER. IN BOTH INCIDENTS, MUSLIMS
WERE THE MAIN ACTORS BUT WERE REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY
HINDUS. AS IN CALCUTTA, THE PRECISE ORIGIN OF THE
INCIDENTS IS UNCLEAR BUT IN BOTH, EVENTS REVOLVED
AROUND PRESSURE BY THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE (A NEW
APPOINTEE) FOR INCREASED STERILIZATION QUOTAS AND MUS-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12517 251819Z

LIM FEAR OF COMPULSION. ONE OF THE RUMORS, FOR EXAMPLE,
(ATTRIBUTED TO THE IG POLICE FOR UP BY CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT WHO KNOWS HIM WELL),
ALLEGES THAT 300 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN DHATAULI AND
COMPULSORILY STERILIZED.

5. THE UP VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS IN THE LAST WEEK ARE
FILLED WITH STORIES OF "VOLUNTARY" STERILIZATIONS BY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

OFFICIALS, MUSLIMS, POLICE, FARMERS, ETC., AND WHATEVER THE POLITICAL REACTION IN CALCUTTA, WE THUS FAR SEE NO SIGNS OF A LET-UP IN UP ON THE STERILIZATION DRIVE.

6. WE HAVE HEARD A FEW REPORTS THAT EXTENSION OF THE FAMILY PLANNING CAMPAIGN INTO THE ARMY IS BEING CONSIDERED. ONE ACCOUNT WE HAVE HEARD DESCRIBES MILITARY OFFICERS AS NOT RECEIVING ALLOWANCES, INCLUDING FOR TRAVEL, FOR MORE THAN THREECHILDREN UNLESS THEY ARE STERILIZED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS AND HAVE NOT THUS FAR HEARD OF MORE DRACONIAN PRESSURES BEING CONSIDERED.

7. IT IS DIFFICULT TO FOCUS OTHER REPORTS OF UNREST SPECIFICALLY ON THE ISSUE OF FAMILY PLANNING, BUT WE ARE STRUCK BY TWO REPORTS, BOTH BY CHANCE IN THE DELHI PRESS AUG 25. ONE, FROM AGRA, DESCRIBES THE MURDER OF A COLLEGE PRINCIPAL (ENGINEERING COLLEGE, DAYALBAGH), THREATS TO THE COLLEGE BY STUDENTS CARRYING PISTOLS, AND A REQUEST BY A MEETING OF ALL "DEGREE COLLEGES" IN AGRA FOR POLICE GUARDS FOR PRINCIPALS OF THE COLLEGES AND FOR INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE OF "PEOPLE, INCLUDING STUDENTS WITHIN THE COLLEGE." ALL COLLEGES IN AGRA WERE CLOSED AUG 24, INCLUDING AGRA UNIVERSITY.

8. IN ANOTHER REPORT FROM JAIPUR (RAJESTHAN), ALL CITIZENS WERE BEING TOLD THAT "NO INOCULATION OR VACCINATION DRIVE" WAS ON IN THE CITY OR THE CITY'S SCHOOLS. THE REPORT SAID THAT "ANTI SOCIAL ELEMENTS HAD SPREAD THE RUMOR FAR AND WIDE IN THE CITY THAT SOME STUDENTS HAD DIED FOLLOWING INOCULATION OR VACCINATION IN THE CITY SCHOOLS." IT WAS ALLEGED THAT SOME PERSONS HAD GIVEN SHOTS TO SEVERAL STUDENTS ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

STREET, AS A RESULT OF WHICH PARENTS RUSHED TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN HOME FROM SCHOOL.

9. COMMENT: THE AGRA STORY SMACKS OF A PROBLEM RELATING TO STERILIZATION DRIVES, BUT AT THE MINIMUM CONVEYS A FAR DIFFERENT IMAGE OF "PEACE AND QUIET" ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES THAN THE OFFICIAL GOVT RELEASES USUALLY DO SINCE THE EMERGENCY. THE JAIPUR STORY (WHICH WAS ALSO PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON LOCAL A.I.R. NEWS BROADCASTS THE NIGHT OF AUG 24) WE BELIEVE SHOWS THE DEGREE OF FEAR AND DISTRUST WHICH THE FAMILY PLANNING DRIVE MAY WELL HAVE INSTILLED IN MANY PEOPLE. THE CREDIBILITY OF A SUDDEN COMPULSORY AND CRASH CAMPAIGN TO IMMUNIZE STUDENTS AGAINST SOME UNKNOWN DISEASE, WE BELIEVE, DERIVES LARGELY FROM THE CAM-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PAIGN ON STERILIZATION AND THE GROWING DEPENDENCE OF
PEOPLE ON "RUMORS" RATHER THAN NEWSPAPERS FOR RELIABLE
INFORMATION.
SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, BIRTH CONTROL, LAW, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-0911
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760821/aaaaarwc.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 12516
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISTURBANCES OVER FAMILY PLANNING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006